GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7617
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
OFFER OF NEW BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION UNDER NELP
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;M.V.V.S MURTHI;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SHIVAJI MANE;SHYAMA SINGH;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently finalised the production sharing contracts for the 25 oil blocks awarded to various national and international oil companies under the New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, the details and terms and conditions of the production sharing contracts;

(c) the extent to which it will help in enhancing the production of oil;

(d) the amount the Government propose to spend during the first phase of oil exploration;

(e) the time by which exploration work is likely to start;

(f) whether bids were invited for awarding such oil blocks;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(h) the details of new modifications made under the NELP and the time by which the remaining oil blocks are likely to be offered ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (h) :
(i) Out of 25 exploration blocks awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) -99, on the basis of global competitive bidding, production sharing contracts (PSCs) for 22 blocks have been signed on 12.4.2000. The broad terms of NELP are at Annexure.

(ii) The extent of production can be estimated only after commercial discovery of hydrocarbons is made in these blocks.

(iii) In the exploration of these blocks, no investment from Government is required. However, based on the work programme committed by awardee companies in phase-I of exploration, the expenditure by these companies is estimated to be about US $ 246 million.

(iv) The exploration work in these blocks can be started after the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) is issued.

(v) The exploration activities in the country involving acquisition of new data, reprocessing/reinterpretation of the existing data and offer of blocks is a continuous and an ongoing process.